His Majesties

GRACIOUS

SPEECH

To both Houses of

PARLIAMENT,

On *Munday* the 28th of *January*, 1678.

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My Lords and Gentlemen,

WHen We parted laſt, I told you, That before We met again, I would do that which ſhould be to your Satisfaction; I have accordingly made ſuch Alliances with *Holland*, as are for the Preſervation of *Flanders*, and which can-

not fail of that End, unleſs prevented either by the want of due Aſſiſtances to Support thoſe Alliances, or by the ſmall regard the *Spaniards* themſelves muſt have to their own Preſervation.

The firſt of theſe I cannot ſuſpect, by reaſon of your repeated Engagements to maintain them; and I know you are ſo wiſe, as to conſider, That a War, which muſt be the neceſſary Conſequence of them, ought neither to be proſecuted by Halves, nor to want ſuch Aſſurances of Perſeverance as may give Me Encouragement to purſue it; beſides, it will not be leſs neceſſary, to let Our Enemies have ſuch a Proſpect of Our Reſolutions, as may let them ſee certainly, That We ſhall not be weary of Our Arms, till *Chriſtendom* be reſtored to ſuch a Peace, as ſhall not be in the Power of any Prince alone to Diſturb.

I do acknowledge to you, That I have uſed all the means poſſible, by a Mediation, to have procured an

an Honourable and Safe Peace for *Chriſtendom*; knowing how preferable ſuch a Peace would have been to any War, and eſpecially to this Kingdom, which muſt neceſſarily own the vaſt Benefits it has received by Peace, whilſt its Neighbours onely have yet ſmarted by the War: But finding it no longer to be hoped for by fair means, it ſhall not be My fault if that be not obtained by Force, which cannot be had other ways.

For this Reaſon I have recalled My Troops from *France*, and have conſider'd, That although the *Dutch* ſhall do their parts, We cannot have leſs on Ours, then Ninety Sail of Capital Ships conſtantly maintained; nor leſs then Thirty or Fourty thouſand Landmen, (with their Dependencies) to be employed upon Our Fleets, and elſewhere. And becauſe there ſhall be no fear of Miſ-employing what you ſhall give to theſe Uſes, I am contented that ſuch Money

be appropriated to thoſe Ends, as ſtrictly as you can deſire. I have given Teſtimony enough of My Care in that kind, by the Progreſs I have made in Building the New Ships, wherein, for the making them more uſeful, I have Directed ſuch larger Dimenſions, as will coſt Me above One hundred thouſand pounds more then the Act allows. I have gone as far as I could in Repairing the Old Fleet, and in Buying of Neceſſary Stores for the Navy, and Ordnance; And in this and other Proviſions, for better Securing both My Foreign Plantations, and the Iſlands nearer home, I have expended a great deal more then the Two hundred thouſand pounds you enabled Me to Borrow upon the Exciſe, although I have not found ſuch a Credit as I expected upon that Security. I have born the Charge both of a Rebellion in *Virginia*, and a new War with *Algiers*: I ſtand Engaged to the Prince of *Orange* for My Nieces Portion;

and

and I ſhall not be able to Maintain My conſtant neceſſary Eſtabliſhments, unleſs the New Impoſt upon Wines, &c. be continued to Me, which would otherwiſe turn only to their Profit, to whom We leaſt intend it.

I hope theſe things will need little Recommendation to you, when you conſider your Promiſes in ſome, and the Neceſſity of the reſt; and to let you ſee, that I have not onely employed My Time and Treaſure for your Safety, but done all I could to remove all ſorts of Jealouſies, I have married My Niece to the Prince of *Orange*, by which I hope I have given full Aſſurances that I ſhall never ſuffer his Intereſt to be ruined, if I can be Aſſiſted, as I ought to be, to preſerve them.

Having done all this, I expect from you a plentiful Supply, ſuitable to ſuch great Occaſions, whereon depends not onely the Honour, but (for ought I know) the Being

ing of an Engliſh Nation, which will not be ſaved by finding faults afterwards, but may be prevented by avoiding the chief Fault of doing weakly and by halves, what can onely be hoped from a vigorous and through proſecution of what We undertake.

Theſe conſiderations are of the greateſt Importance that ever concerned this Kingdom; and therefore I would have you enter immediately upon them, without ſuffering any other Buſineſs whatſoever to divert you from bringing them to good Reſolutions.

FINIS.